Prices of newsprint

814. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steep hike in prices of indigenous newsprint with effect from 31st December, 1985, is likely to de-establish the economy of newspapers;

(b) what is the increase in the basic price per tonne in the case of Mysore, Kerala and Tamil Nadu paper mills and also NEPA mills;

(c) whether it is a fact that the price charged for the indigenous manufacture is already highest in the world and higher than the prices of far superior quality of imported newsprint;

(d) if so, what are the details of the prices of the imported superior quality of newsprint; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the indigenous newsprin mills are exploiting helpless position of the newspapers; if so, what remedial steps Gogovernment are proposing to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No., Sir.

(b) The increase in the ex-mill prices per tonne is as follows:—

National Newsprint and Paper Mills Ltd.	Rs.1,860
Mysore paper Mills Ltd.	Rs. 960
Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.	Rs. 960
Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Ltd.	Rs. 960

(c) and (d) The price of imported standard newsprint (48 8 gms) ex-buffer stock for the quarter January—March, 1986 is Rs. 7,030 per tonne exclusive of of customs levies. Although the price of indigenous newsprint is higher, its quality is broadly comparable with that of imported newsprint.

(e) No, Sir. The indigenous newsprint manufacturers are charging only the prices based on normative criteria as recommended by the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices.

Lok Adalats

815. SHRI SYED AHMED HASHMI: Wil the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases settled in the Lok Adalats in each State during the last six months;

(b) whether it is a record achievement in the history of judiciary in the country; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to set up more Lok Adalats in the country in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) According to the information furnished by the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes, the total number of cases settled in the Lok Adalats in the various States during the last six months is as under:—

Name of the State/Union Territory	Total No of Cases Settled
Andhra Pradesh	2000
Bihar	2595
Gujarat	1580
Haryana	5000 (Approximately)
Orissa	490
Maharashtra	164
Rajasthan	27182
Uttar Pradesh	24612
Delhi	326